

Sustainable Signs **Shine** Without Electricity



Caltrans is replacing its lighted green-background highway signs with retroreflective signs that, in most applications, require no electricity because they are fully illuminated solely by headlights. The new signs require no catwalks to replace burned-out bulbs. This saves money, reduces risks to workers, and decreases opportunities for graffiti and copper-wire theft.

The new signs use high-performance retroreflective sheeting for both the background and the text. Retroreflective materials bounce light from vehicle headlights back to drivers' eyes, making the signs appear brighter and easier to read. Caltrans anticipates these sign sheeting products will last 20 years or longer.

More than a Half a Million Signs Aren't Cheap

California's highway system has more than 600,000 signs. For fiscal year 2014–15, the State Highway and Operation Protection Program will invest about \$89 million for approximately 15 projects that will replace about 1,800 old signs with new high-performance ones. In fiscal year 2016–17, an additional \$28 million will replace obsolete signs in two projects in the San Diego region.

Source: Division of Traffic Operations